

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GW

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO BDC BY WCBS TELEVISION

1. SUMMARY: BERLIN DOCUMENT CENTER (BDC) RECEIVED TELEGRAM FROM WCBS (NEW YORK) TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY UNIT NOVEMBER 21 REQUESTING ON URGENT BASIS INFORMATION ON FOUR INDIVIDUALS. PURPOSE OF REQUEST NOT EXPLAINED BUT IT PRESUMABLY RELATES TO PLANNED TELEVISION PROGRAM. ACCESS TO BDC NORMALLY RESTRICTED TO GOVERNMENTS, OFFICIALLY SPONSORED INDIVIDUALS, AND SCHOLARS WITH CLEARLY DEFINED SCHOLARLY PROJECT. IN PRESENT INSTANCE BDC WOULD HAVE LITTLE TO OFFER WCBS SINCE FILES CONTAIN ONLY MARGINAL INFORMATION ON ONE INDIVIDUAL. RECOMMENDATION: DEPARTMENT CONTACT WCBS, EXPLAIN LIMITATIONS ON ACCESS AND, UNLESS WCBS CAN PROVIDE FURTHER DOCUMENTATION OF REQUEST WHICH INDICATES SCHOLARLY PURPOSE, RESTRICT ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO PASSING ON SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED BELOW FOR ADDITIONAL ARCHIVES WHICH WCBS MIGHT WISH TO CONSULT. END SUMMARY.

2. WCBS TELEGRAM, SIGNED BY ANN DEAN OF TV DOCUMENTARY UNIT, STATES REQUEST BEING MADE PURSUANT TO CONVERSATION WITH ROBERT BECKER, EUR/CE. WCBS WISHES TO OBTAIN PICTURES AND DOCUMENTATIONS ON WARTIME ACTIVITIES OF

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FOLLOWING FOUR INDIVIDUALS:

A) BOLESLOV MAIKOVSKI, BORN IN LATVIA, DESCRIBED AS POLICE OFFICIAL WHO ALLEGEDLY CARRIED OUT KILLINGS OF JEWS, GYPSIES AND POLITICAL PRISONERS FOR NAZI'S BETWEEN 1941 AND 1944 IN LATVIA.

B) ANDRIJA ARTUKOVICH, FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER OF CROATIA ALLEGEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR LIQUIDATION OF CROATION JEWS AND SERBS, AND FOR MURDER OF 3 POW AMERICAN PILOTS.

C) VIOREL TRIFA, ROMANIAN WHO ALLEHEDLY WAS NAZI COLLABORATOR RESPONSIBLE FOR INSTIGATING JEWISH POGROMS.

D) KARL LINNAS, AN ESTONIAN ALLEGEDLY COMMANDANT OF CONCENTRATION CAMP IN TARTU, ESTONIA.

3. BDC HAS SEVERAL DOCUMENTS ON A VIAREL TRIFA (NOTE SPELLING) WHICH INDICATE THAT HE WAS ROMNIAN CITIZEN WHO WORKED WITH GER MANS DURING WAR AND WAS OFFERED PROFESSORSHIP AT UNIVERSITY OF ERLANGEN IN 1945, BUT WHICH DO NOT CAST LIGHT ON MORE SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS. THERE IS NO INFORMATION ON OTHER THREE INDIVIDUALS.

4. BDC ACCESS POLICY HAS TRADITIONALLY FROWNED UPON MAKING FILES AVAILABLE TO JOURNALISTS, PARTICULARLY WHEN OBJECT OF REQUEST IS INDIVIDUAL WHO IS STILL ALIVE. BDC SERVICES PRIMARILY OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. BDC FILES ARE ALSO NORMALLY MADE AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUALS OFFICIALLY SPONSORED BY GOVERNMENTS AND TO INDIVIDUALS WITH LEGITIMATE SCHOLARLY CREDENTIALS WHO CAN DEMONSTRATE SPECIFIC SCHOLARLY INTEREST IN PARTICULAR FILES. IN ABSENCE OF FULLER EXPLANATION OF WCBS PURPOSES, WE WOULD HESITATE TO PROVIDE EVEN MARGINAL INFORMATION ON TRIFA LEST PRECEDENT BE ESTABLISHED. ON OTHER HAND, WE WOULD SEE NO HARM IN DEPARTMENT ADVISING WCBS THAT BDC FILES CONTAIN ONLY VERY LIMITED INFORMATION ON ONE INDIVIDUAL WHICH DO NOT SHED LIGHT ON MATTERS DESCRIBED IN WCBS REQUEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT THAT BDC ARCHIVISTS SUGGEST WCBS MAY WISH TO CONSULT FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL ARCHIVES WHICH HAVE COLLECTIONS IN RELEVANT AREAS:

A) BUNDESARCHIV IN KOBLENZ HAS ORIGINAL RECORDS OF REICH KOMMISSARIAT OSTLAND AND MICROFILM COPIES ARE STORED AT NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN WASHINGTON. THESE MAY SHED SOME LIGHT ON MAIKOVSKI. ADDITIONALLY,

MILITAERGESCHICHTLICHES FORSCHUNGSAMT IN FREIBURG MAY HAVE INFORMATION ON MAIKOVSKI IF, AS ALLEGED, HE WAS SS. BDC ALSO SUGGESTS THAT WCBS MAY WISH TO CHECK RECORDS OF INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL IN NATIONAL ARCHIVES WITH RESPECT TO MAIKOVSKI.

B) BDC SUGGESTS HEERESGRUPPE SUEDOST RECORDS IN FREIBURG AND RECORDS OF GERMAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR SERVIA/CROATIA, STORED EITHER IN FREIBURG OR COBLENZ MAY HAVE INFORMATION ON ARTUKOVICH.

C) ZENTRALE STELLE DER LANDEJUSTIZVERWALTUNGEN IN LUDWIGSBURG, WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY IN FRG FOR PROSECUTION OF WAR CRIMINALS, MAY HAVE INFORMATION ON LINAS. NAME OF CONTACT THERE IS DR. ARTZT.

5. IF QUESTIONS OF APPLICABILITY OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT SHOULD ARISE, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THIS LAW MAY NOT BE RELEVANT SINCE BDC CONTAINS REOCRDS NOT OF USG BUT OF GERMAN REICH WHICH WERE CAPTURED BY US ARMY AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS AND COLLECTED IN BERLIN PENDING FINAL DISPOSITION. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION HAVE BEGUN (THOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO MOVEMENT FOR YEAR) WITH VIEW TO NEGOTIATING TURNOVER TO FRG.SELIGMANN

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